

## **Written Submission from Jurat S J Le Cornu, 9th February 2010**

I have served the Island as Deputy or the Parish of St Clement and Connetable of the Parish. I am now a serving Jurat

I very strongly feel that there should be no change in the current roles.

However, one has to take account of the fact that the persons fulfilling those roles are now under enormous pressure. I believe that the solution is to provide support for them, not, change the roles.

Any change of this sort will strike at the heart of our Constitution, especially if our Bailiff was not to be Chief Justice, President of the States and civic head of the Island.

I would like my personal comments to be taken as comments made as a consequence of my time as Connetable and States member. I have made comments to my Jurat colleagues and these will follow in due course.

The States used to meet once a month until December 1996. Now they meet fortnightly, and the session often takes up most of the week. This must inevitably put a strain on the Bailiff and his Deputy, but I believe the solution is in the domain of the States members. They should take steps to limit the time they take to handle the business.

The Greffier of the States is a qualified lawyer and deputises very adequately when he chairs the house in the absence of the Bailiff or Deputy Bailiff. Increasing the amount of time he or his deputy 'take the chair' could be the answer.

The thought of a Speaker elected from the house fills me with dread!

On a few occasions in my time as a member, the senior States member acted as chairman and the whole tone of the house changed. One immediately lost the feeling that the person in charge was able to handle any problems as and when they might arise. It is totally different when the Bailiff is in the chair.

If the house had a Speaker elected from the members, with no presence of the Attorney General, I think it would be chaos.

I would also like to comment on the roles of Attorney General and Solicitor General.

I would like to see their role and responsibilities remain unchanged, both within the States, and as head of the Honorary Police.

One often forgets that the Honorary Police are ordinary people from all walks of life who give freely of their time for the good of the community. Whilst it is important that they are aware of the limits within which they have to operate, they have a totally different function to members of the States Police. It is important that they have a head who relates to their almost unique role. It does not fit comfortably with the guidance and training which the full time States Police have to fulfil.

The Chief of Police should be responsible for his force and the Attorney General should be responsible for his – The amateur force.

Just as the A/G or S/G give advice to States members, I have often had to get advice quickly when a difficult situation has arisen concerning Honorary police affairs. This could be a potential disciplinary matter when advice was needed prior to taking action or something happening in which there was possibly police action required. I had many conversations of this sort which save us all a lot of time. It also increased the efficiency. To have the Attorney General as the head of the Honorary Police is most important.

As you will deduce from my comments I have very traditional views on Island affairs. There are some who would make changes to the very fabric of our Island. These are the things which make Jersey special and different. The vast majority of the Island's population are proud of what we have in our Island, and the calls for these major changes are only from a few. That is not to say that adjustments cannot be made which will eventually become part of our traditions and heritage.